

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 EB-11 IO-12 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 /112 R

DRAFTED BY AF/ S: DDHAUGHT: SLW

4/3/73 EXT 28434

APPROVED BY AF: RSSMITH

AF/ S: JALINEHAN

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R 031453 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR SF

SUBJECT: PRESS INQUIRIES RE DIGGS HEARINGS ON NAMIBIA

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. REUTERS ITEM DATELINED WASHINGTON, MARCH 28, CARRIED BRIEF REPORT ON APPEARANCE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SMITH BEFORE HOUSE AFRICAN SUBCOMMITTEE WHICH HELD HEARINGS MARCH 27, 28 AND 29 ON U. S. INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. MARCH 28 SESSION WAS DEVOTED TO NAMIBIA.

2. EXCERPTS FROM REUTERS ITEM, NON- ESSENTIAL PORTIONS OMITTED, FOLLOWS: " STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SAID TODAY U. S. APPEALS TO SOUTH AFRICA HAD HELPED SAVE LIVES OF 31 POLITICAL PRISONERS IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA. ( SMITH) SAID U. S. MADE STRENOUS REPRESENTATIONS TO SOUTH AFRICA AGAINST PUTTING 31 PRISONERS ON TRIAL AND AGAINST PROPOSED DEATH SENTENCES. HE SAID U. S. ALSO MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO PRETORIA IN TRIAL OF A GROUP OF STRIKERS, WHO WERE

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SUBSEQUENTLY GIVEN LIGHT SENTENCES, ON SOUTH AFRICAN EFFORTS TO SEPARATE NATIVE PEOPLES INTO BANTUSTANS, AND AGAINST EXPULSION BISHOP WINTER."

3. SMITH'S COMMENTS FOLLOWED STATEMENT MADE BY BISHOP WINTER, WHO APPEARED AT SAME SESSION, TO EFFECT U. S. AND U. K. MADE NO EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF SOUTH WEST AFRICANS

TRIED UNDER TERRORISM ACT NOR ON BEHALF OVAMBOS DETAINED IN CONNECTION WITH GENERAL STRIKE IN 1971. REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO SMITH IN CONNECTION WITH U. S. REPRESENTATIONS ESSENTIALLY CORRECT. HOWEVER, HE WAS CAREFUL TO POINT OUT WE WERE NOT ABLE TO SAY WHAT EFFECTS OUR REPRESENTATIONS HAD AND DID NOT DRAW DIRECT CONCLUSION THAT OUR APPEALS SAVED LIVES OR RESULTED IN LIGHT SENTENCES. SMITH SAID WE HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER EXPULSION OF WINTER, AND ADDED THAT WE MADE STRONG REPRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF BISHOP MIZE, WHO WAS U. S. CITIZEN. SMITH DID NOT STATE WE MADE REPRESENTATIONS RE BANTUSTANS.

4. RAND DAILY MAIL CORRESPONDENT RAYMOND HEARD TELEPHONED SMITH MARCH 30 TO INQUIRE ABOUT BASIS OF REUTERS ITEM. SMITH PUT HIS COMMENTS IN CONTEXT OF U. S. CONCERN FOR WELFARE OF SOUTH WEST AFRICANS, DID NOT GO BEYOND WHAT HE HAD SAID BEFORE SUBCOMMITTEE, AND REFERRED HEARD TO AF/S FOR DETAILS. HEARD HAS NOT FOLLOWED UP.

5. VAN HEERDEN, OF SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY, CALLED AF/S TWICE MARCH 30 TO INQUIRE WHETHER SMITH HAD MADE STATEMENT REGARDING U. S. REPRESENTATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH RECENT STRIKERS IN DURBAN. (PRESUMABLY, GARBLED VERSION OF SMITH'S TESTIMONY HAD REACHED EMBASSY.) VAN HEERDEN WAS ADVISED TOPIC OF DURBAN STRIKES HAD NOT COME UP AT ALL. (DURBAN STRIKES WERE MENTIONED BRIEFLY IN DIFFERENT CONTEXT IN PREVIOUS DAY'S HEARING.)

6. DEPT. WILL POUCH TRANSCRIPT OF HEARINGS AS SOON AS AVAILABLE. MEANWHILE, IF PRESS INQUIRIES ARISE, POSTS MAY RESPOND ON BASIS OF INFORMATION SUPPLIED ABOVE. RUSH

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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**TAGS:** PFOR, SF, n/a  
**To:** CAPE TOWN  
PRETORIA  
**Type:** TE  
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